

Outdoor Warning Sirens

Outdoor warning sirens are used to alert residents who may be outdoors when a Tornado Warning is issued by the National Weather Service, a funnel cloud is reported by credible source, or a chemical emergency has occurred where a shelter-in-place order is issued.

The sirens are not intended to alert people indoors. It is highly recommended that each residence, business, school and church purchase weather alert radios that are automatically activated during severe weather and hazardous materials events. Text and e-mail alerts are also available through the Clermont County Division of Public Safety Services, the National Weather Service and other major media outlets.

To register for a text/e-mail alert through Clermont County Division of Public Safety Services, go to the following link: <https://sosink.smartmsg.com/>

Activation

All of the outdoor warning sirens in Clermont County will be activated when the following conditions exist:

- A **Tornado Warning** is issued by the National Weather Service;
- A Tornado or funnel cloud is reported by a public safety official or trained weather spotter; or
- A Chemical emergency has occurred resulting in a shelter-in-place order to be issued.

Testing

The outdoor warning sirens are tested the first Wednesday of every month at 12:00 pm. If severe weather is forecast, or is observed in the area, the monthly test will be postponed until the next monthly test to avoid confusion. The monthly tests are conducted to test the operation of the sirens and to familiarize the residents with the sound of the siren, should a **Tornado Warning** be issued.

Tornado Watch versus Tornado Warning

A **Tornado Watch** is issued by the National Weather Service when conditions are right for tornadoes to develop. This is the time to remind family members where the safest places within your home are located and listen to your radio or television for further developments.

A **Tornado Warning** is issued by the National Weather Service when a tornado has been sighted or indicated by the weather radar. Take shelter immediately.

What to Do When the Sirens Sound

IF YOU ARE IN:	THEN:
A structure (e.g. residence, small building, school, nursing home, hospital, factory, shopping center, high-rise building)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Go to a pre-designated shelter area such as a safe room, basement, storm cellar, or the lowest level of the building. If there is no basement, go to the center of an interior room on the lowest level (closet, interior hallway) away from corners, windows, doors, and outside walls. Put as many walls as possible between you and the outside. Get under a sturdy table and use your arms to protect your head and neck.• In a high-rise building, go to a small interior room or hallway on the lowest floor possible.• Do not open windows.• Listen to the radio, TV, and/or NOAA All Hazard Alert Radio for additional information on weather conditions, evacuation/shelter-in-place instructions, and updates on when conditions are safe.
A vehicle, trailer, or mobile home	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Get out immediately and go to the lowest floor of a sturdy, nearby building or a storm shelter. Mobile homes, even if tied down, offer little protection from tornadoes.
The outside with no shelter	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lie flat in a nearby ditch or depression and cover your head with your hands. Be aware of the potential for flooding.• Do not get under an overpass or bridge. You are safer in a low, flat location.• Never try to outrun a tornado in urban or congested areas in a car or truck. Instead, leave the vehicle immediately for safe shelter.• Watch out for flying debris. Flying debris from tornadoes causes most fatalities and injuries.